GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2946
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2017
Involvement of Foreign Companies in Indian Nuclear Sector
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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)the number and names of the foreign companies which have shown interest in the Nuclear Power Projects in the country;

(b)the amount of funds likely to be invested by these companies including the names of projects for which these companies have shown interest for investment, Project-wise;

(c)whether the nuclear energy will become available for the consumers at affordable rates and if so the details thereof; and

(d)the number of jobs likely to be generated with the arrival of foreign companies in atomic energy sector?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)Several foreign companies from various countries including Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC) and GE-Hitachi, United States of America (USA), Electricite de France (EDF), France and Rosatom, Russia have shown interest in participating in the country's nuclear power projects in various capacities as technology partners, suppliers, contractors, service providers, etc.

(b)As per the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy of the Government, FDI is not permitted in nuclear power sector. Thus, foreign companies cannot invest in nuclear power. Nuclear power projects to be set up with foreign technical cooperation are planned to be funded by a mix of equity and debt, with equity to be mobilised from internal resources of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), Joint Venture companies between NPCIL and other Central Public Sector Undertakings and Government budgetary support. Foreign companies can however, invest in the supply chain for nuclear power projects.

(c)The present tariffs of nuclear power range from Rs.1.07 per unit in case of the oldest nuclear power station, Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) - 1&2 at Tarapur, Maharashtra to Rs.4.10 in case of the latest station, Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP)-1&2 at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu. Nuclear power tariffs are comparable to those from other electricity generating plants (based on other technologies) located in the same area.

(d)Every twin unit nuclear power station would generate a direct employment of about 850 comprising engineers, supervisors, technicians and other personnel. In addition, indirect employment for thousands of people would be generated with suppliers, contractors, service providers, etc. The resultant increase in economic activity would also open up opportunities for various businesses and will result in further employment generation.

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